



# **MONTGOMERY** **MEMORIES**

March 2023

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## Contributing Writers



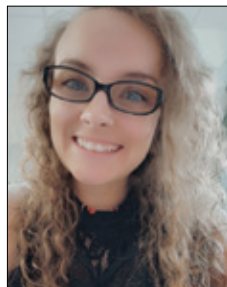
**KAREN BAZZANI ZACH** has been a contributor of local historical articles for almost 50 years. A native Montgomery Countian, she grew up in Waveland, married Jim Zach, and received her grad degree from IU while working at CDPL as Children's Librarian. Karen authored one of the newer county histories, *Crawfordsville: Athens of Indiana*. After teaching English at Turkey Run HS for 21 years, she retired and is now enjoying visiting with her two children (Jay and Suzie), writing, reading, doing genealogy, and grandkidding!



**CHUCK CLORE** After a lifelong career in visual communications, Eureka! Chuck discovered that noodling the nuances of the written word can be just as much fun as tweaking a font into an iconic logo. *Montgomery Memories* is the perfect venue to explore his treasured C-ville's east-end recollections. An Athenian boomer from the class of 65, he delights in graphic design, cartooning, and story telling. Chuck's articles reveal how a CHS senior corduroy artist eventually evolved into an award winning designer and aspiring writer.



**JOY WILLETT** was born in Crawfordsville and spent most of her childhood in southern Montgomery County. She graduated from South Montgomery High School. Her undergrad was from Indiana State University and she earned her MBA at the University of Phoenix. Joy and her husband David have lived in Indiana, Arizona, California, and Illinois. As an amateur genealogist, she enjoys research and has written three family history books. She also writes poetry and fiction.



**KELSEY CURRAN** is one of the paginators for the Paper of Montgomery County. She edits and helps complete the daily news as well as the *Montgomery Memories* and Sports Report every month for viewers to enjoy. She was born in a small town in Illinois and moved to Crawfordsville in 2016. She has three children. She enjoys spending time with her husband and kids, reading and baking.





# March Feature: Barnett Walter Harris

*Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories*

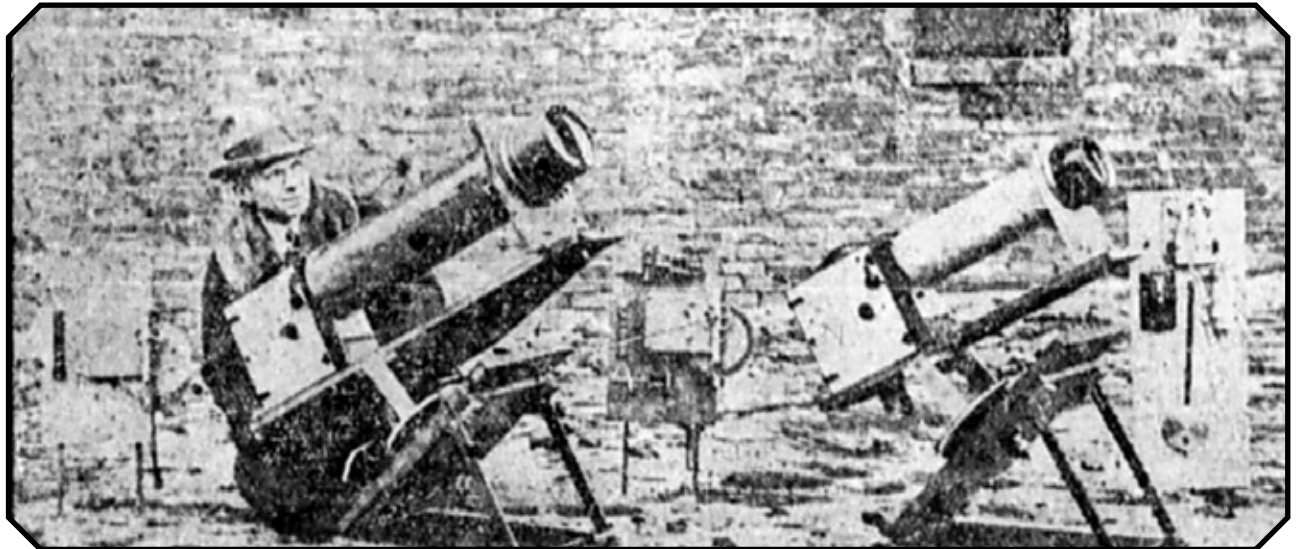
Sure was a tough call who to honor in the featured article for inventors, but after much thought, Barnett Walter Harris won out. Ever heard of him? Oh, my what a talented fellow and he excelled in each and every career or job he tackled (inventor obviously, but a soldier, poet, painter, hunter, cameraman, museum operator, explorer, lecturer, son, husband and father – well, seriously, just anything he desired to accomplish).

Born in Waveland, 9 November in 1876 to Stanton Samuel (Stant) and Sarah Johnson Harris, Barnett received his name from her father, Barnett Ristine Johnson, wife Roberta Green North, the name pattern continuing as Barnett Ristine was named for his mother, (Mary) Ristine, whose father was Daniel Johnson, a Revolutionary Soldier. Barnett was after my heart as he so loved history, with not only Daniel as a Revolutionary soldier, but he, joining SAR under the above Roberta North's (daughter of Henry T.) grandfather, Abijah North (born 8 Feb 1759 in Farmington, Connecticut and died at age 91 in Gallatin County, Kentucky. He was in the service several times during September 1778-October 1781 being in the battles of Ticonderoga and Crown Point.

Barnett grew-up in Waveland with his younger sister, Bessie; however, his mother passed away when they were just six and four and Stant remarried Alice Acker. Later, the family moved to Rockville where Stant ran a drug store. They had one daughter, Lyncdall who sadly died not long after her marriage at age 21, sick for years fighting diabetes.

Although Barnett was extremely close with his father (they had a lot of fun together teasing and just spending time) he is found with sister Bessie (who later married Herman Schweitzer and lived a good life) with their grandmother Johnson in the 1900 Crawfordsville census, Gpa' Barnett having passed 34 years before. Stant also moved back to Waveland I believe later on as Barnett visited there often and articles about Barnett would say Mr. and Mrs. Stanton Harris of Waveland.

A graduate of Rockville HS, I don't believe he had any college, but from my study of this man, he never, ever stopped learning. His wife, Lucille (Cricket) Vandome Berg was listed as a biologist, so she likely did. They had one daughter, Charlotte born in January 1929 when Barnett was 52 (in South Africa where he was a lecturer for the American Consular Service). She married and produced four wonderful grandchildren.



While in Indianapolis as manager of an Acetylene Supply Company he was working on inventions as well; for one, an advertising clock, the "hands and numbers on the clock illuminated which gradually disappeared with the advertiser's name" (Waveland Independent Jan 10, 1913) popping up highlighted on the face of the clock, then the process continued again – he was paid \$10,000 for the rights. Another main invention was the electrically-prepared car that could ride on any rough terrain that would secure mail delivery. Long and sleek, the "aerial Car (Rockville Republican 16 Aug 1905) was of aluminum," ran on cables and had nose-like protrusions on each end. Although freight, including anything for the mail was the target for the cars, they could also hold up to five men. Kind of reminded me of the cars for the first Ferris wheel (see article).

Moving to Chicago, he began working in the movies, filming stars (example: Francis X. Bushman) but quickly realized it was the "stars of Heaven" he wanted to make famous. This man was a world (three times around) traveler and had no fear when taking such pictures. In 1914, he went to Japan and tallied up a full volcano eruption. In 1915, the movie company sent him to Europe to photograph anything and everything that would bring excitement to viewers. Upon returning, he joined the Illinois National Guard as a member of the Ambulance Corps. WWI was next (at age 41) and as he left (May 1918) he wrote a wonderful poem called "The Port of Missing Men" which is too big to fit here but the ending is "When the troops come home from victories won,

then we'll know and not till then who passed the port of missing men!" He was in at least six battles and when he returned home, he found he was quite a hero receiving medals for the British Service, Army of Occupation, Verdun, Purple Heart and Silver Star. He spent a total of 25 years in organized services, was a Sgt in war, but went on to become a Captain.

He lectured far and wide, especially about his invention the tranquilizing gun. He was noted as a big game hunter but he hunted them for a different reason than most – he didn't want to hurt them thus his gun – he took them all over to be in zoos and the like. Two major accomplishments were capturing the first aerial photo of Niagara Falls and several sun eclipses including this one (photo - Binghamton NY Press 19 January 1925). Thus, after years of travelling in the wilds, in 1936, they went to Clearwater Florida where he and Cricket opened the Sea Orama museum, an unusual one as the marine life were models, often created and painted by the couple. It was so realistic that the museum was as popular as if it had the real sharks, plants and such. Barnett retired in 1957 and Cricket continued the museum. It was just three years later on Jan 27th that Capt. Barnett Walter Harris passed away at his home at age 83. His body (via his will) was cremated, the ashes scattered in the Gulf of Mexico. No matter where he went he took the love of Waveland and Rockville (even spending a whole summer photographing the people and area – my to have a copy of that) with him and especially enjoyed visiting for Hoosier pie and donuts. What a man!

# Odds & Ends – Collected & Commented on by Karen Bazzani Zach

The county newspapers presented many inventors especially in the 1890s. All types of inventions including a wire machine, invented by Ben Miller, a Crawfordsvillian (March 1899). His idea appeared in his head while he was employed at the local Wire Fence Co. “The trust octopus was an obstacle in prosperity’s way and he was forced to sell his patent to a Columbus firm.” However, once he tasted the inventing world, he created a ball-bearing, horizontal wind mill, an entirely “different construction from any yet manufactured.” (Think of the large turbines today). On this he received his patent alone and contracted with the Lyle & Reynolds foundry to manufacture the wind mill and he had several advanced orders on 11 March 1899 (Review).

Here are a couple of others: CR 21 Jan 1893 – FM Raridan of this city has invented a safety bolt and nut for railroad fish joints. The invention is considered a valuable one and it is prophesied to make the owner rich.

Certainly, you can see while perusing the old newspapers that the late 1890s was a big time for female employment and this of course was part of the reason: “The invention of the typewriter has given employment to half a million women.” (CR 20 April 1895)

Even when an invention wasn’t created by a local, they often were a big hit in the area such as in late March 1891 when one will be a help to everyone as was an invention to write by telegraph (covered by 18 patents) – used at any distance, contracts – signatures made at any distance and “mistakes are impossible.” (CWJ 28 March 1891 p 8). The invention was tried in the local Postal Telegraph company and as many as could pack in witnessed the workings. It was a great success. Harry Etheridge of Pittsburg officiated at C’ville and W.E. Gump at the Indianapolis terminal where the message was sent. Think they may have sent one of James B. Elmore’s poems but can’t find total confirmation of that!

In late 1887, Charlie Webster invented a “sleeping robe.” Taking the measurements of Jim Waugh to make it, a delicate cream color (which became grimy as so many checked it out) trimmed in such elaborate tapes, twines, ribbons and such. The women thought it was just too sweet and cute and Charlie should remain as a “booming, struggling genius.” (CWJ 7 Jan 1888 p 10).

Sometimes an amazing invention became the center of fraud as happened in 1894 when GW Whittington invented a knotter for twine binding machines, but being too poor to obtain the proper patents to protect it, he went to Oliver U. Perrin who was supposed to be a gifted patent lawyer. Perrin contacted Alfred D. Lofland to aide (\$2500 worth) Whittington in obtaining the patents, Lofland believing he would make money from it but Perrin wasn’t a gifted lawyer and basically duped the man, sadly!

In December 1873, (CWJ 18th) an article about JS Reed and his revolving photograph album but died suddenly before he made any money; however, his widow was out and about “canvassing the city for support.” Sounds wow back in that time frame – hope it worked for her.

Twenty years later, Frank Raredon applied for a patent for an automatic locking nut and bolt. Quite the inventor, Frank also had one for automatic draw bars for railroads; a self-winding clock; a cross-cut saw and combination of tools he had created among

many other items.

Local man, Jason W. Corey invented a corn planter, winning the silver cup at the state fair over much competition. “It was the surprise and admiration of every practical farmer who examined it.” Many newspapers sang its praises, saying the slide dropped the seeds easily and it was adjustable. Not sure what became of that one but one article ending by saying Lew Wallace had the management of the invention so “no doubt of an ultimate fortune for the inventor and himself.”

Darlington resident, French-born, Jules LePage had a renowned reputation in the invention world, his most famous one probably the “steel cutting” invention by which grain and coffee were processed which produced thousands of dollars income for him. He created several other mill-oriented inventions (Darlington Herald 20 June 1935).

In 1891, Dr. AF Henry told the Argus News of an invention of his he felt would make him millions of dollars – a little “device known as an inhaler with which he purposes curing consumption.” Think of him every time I use my asthma spray.

And we think newfangled telephones are current, well, in 1900 (31 Aug CWJ) Evan Shelby who had lived here invented a pocket telephone that could be whipped out and attached to a phone pole - so line-men, policemen were the special ones to be able to use this but could see if it would have had the best promotion it could have been the prelim to the new-fangled creations of today.

1901 brought Alfred Deck (Franklin Twp) a patent on “an ingenious and useful invention for the protection of telephones from lightning. It also protected buildings from lightning (CWJ 20 Sept 1901 p 10).” Another Darlington inventor was George Booher and “what he can’t make is not worth mentioning, his latest invention was a machine for drawing ice into the ice house.” (Weekly Argus News 25 March 1899 p6). There were several inventors from Darlington.

Shirl Herr was quite an inventor, especially known for his magnetic balance that located buried metal up to a depth of 15’. (Photo from Regina, Canada Leader Post 1 June 1931 p 22). He patrolled the Indian burial grounds in Indiana, and early in 1937, he went to Winslow, Arizona where he used his device to locate metal in the great meteor that landed there. Later, he took the device to Europe and “prowled through ruined castles searching for buried Roman gold.” (Lincoln Star 10 Jan 1937 p 36). Love to write his biography!

So, here we have a brief overview of several of the many more inventors in our county, but believe me, the list goes on!!



## This is our county!

*Why not help preserve its history by contributing to Montgomery Memories?*

**Email Karen Zach: [karen.zach@sbcglobal.net](mailto:karen.zach@sbcglobal.net) Subject: Montgomery Memories**





# Nifty at Ninety - And Beyond

Joy Willett, Montgomery Memories

Albert Allen Swindler was born on March 18, 1866 to William Jonathan and Sarah "Sallie" Ann (Hulse) Swindler. William was a well-to-do farmer in Brown Township, Montgomery County, Indiana. Of interest is that William was 36 and Sallie was 29 when they married on January 5, 1863. In addition to Albert, the couple had a daughter, Martha, who was born in 1870.

Albert's paternal grandfather, Thomas, was born on March 23, 1803 in Loudon County, Virginia. Thomas married Jane Wasson in Montgomery County, Indiana on November 23, 1826. They made their home in Brown Township where they raised seven children to adulthood. William, who was born on November 9, 1827, was their oldest. He went on to be a carpenter and farmer.

Albert's maternal great grandfather, Richard Hulse (also spelled Hultz), was born in Pennsylvania in ca. 1747. The family migrated to Kentucky where Albert's grandfather, Joseph, was born on May 2, 1797. Joseph married Osee Johnson in Fleming County, Kentucky. The family came to Scott Township, Montgomery County, Indiana where Sallie was born on April 19, 1833. Osee died before 1850 and Joseph passed on March 5, 1876. He was interred in the Indiana Creek Hill Cemetery near New Market.

The 1880 Census for Brown Township lists that Albert was working as a farm hand for his father. At the age of 19, Albert was blinded. I was not able to find the cause. He graduated from the Indiana School for the Blind in 1892. In 1900, the census reported that Albert couldn't read, write, or speak English. Given that this information is incorrect, we can guess that the census taker assumed this because of Albert's blindness.

After his graduation from the School for the Blind, Albert began work on his most renowned invention. According to an article in the Outlook for the Blind magazine:

Workers for the blind know that Mr. Albert Swindler of Browns Valley, Indiana has given years of labor and put himself to heavy expense in an effort to develop a practical writer for tactile print. In a recent letter from him, he claims that he has produced "a writer which makes a full four-base Point or a Braille character at one stroke on the keys, and gives both the regular and the close spacing for the Braille...Mr. Swindler offers his invention "as a gift" to the cause and welfare of the blind, on condition that friends of the blind will provide the \$2,000 necessary to start manufacturing the machines. Those who know Mr. Swindler appreciate the devotion, which



Photo courtesy of R. & S. Fine, findagrave.com

he has put into this effort to produce a practical writing machine for the blind.

The Indianapolis Star (13 Dec 1902) reported that Albert had mastered the use of Braille and the "New York Point" system. This gave him the basis for inventing his typewriter. He was also involved in public speaking (The Indianapolis News, 5 June 1903). While living briefly in Indianapolis at the Morton Hotel, Albert sustained "a scalp wound, a sprained shoulder and wrist" when his cane caught the stair railing during his visit to the barber. The Indiana Star article also reported that Albert was an "expert piano tuner" (September 11, 1909). In 1910, Albert was again living at home and working as a piano salesman and tuner. His sister Martha was also still at home. According to the census she worked as a servant. Martha passed on August 28, 1912 at

the age of 41.

William died on September 3, 1914 at the age of 87. Sallie passed on January 10, 1920 at the age of 86. They were both buried at the Indian Creek Hill Cemetery. After the death of his family, Albert lived alone on the family farm. Of note is that in 1919 and 1920 Albert helped build the Christian Church in Browns Valley. On May 10, 1921, he married Amanda Carter. While married to Amanda, Albert farmed. Amanda died, at the age of 63, on July 23, 1933 from Tuberculosis. She was interred in the Indian Creek Hill Cemetery. On March 25, 1939 Albert married Verna Carter. Verna was a niece of Amanda. The couple lived in Crawfordsville at 211 W. College, and Albert was retired.

Verna died on April 15, 1950. Like her Aunt Amanda, she was 63 years of age when she passed. She was buried in the Indian Creek Hill Cemetery. The census for 1950 recorded that Albert's wealth, in modern day value, was close to a quarter of a million dollars. According to the Crawfordsville Journal Review (11 Jan 1957) Albert held several patents, including his writing machine for the blind.

After Verna's death, Albert continued to live on his own in Crawfordsville. Throughout his life he supported the Indiana Workers for the Blind. Three months before he passed, Albert was cared for at the Liter Nursing Home (ibid). He died on January 10, 1957. Like so many of his family members, he was buried in the Indian Creek Hill Cemetery. May Albert, who in spite of obstacles lived a successful life, rest in peace.



Four generations at Hunt & Son Funeral Home,  
the pre-arrangement specialists,  
have been making special remembrances  
for families in this area for over 100 years



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Photo courtesy of Chuck Clore

Gizmos, gadgets, and Tesla's electric coils sparked my imagination like the props in a 1950s Sci-Fi /Horror movie. Don Carter's dad was no mad scientist, but he definitely resembled one amidst all the equipment in his TV Repair Shop on Grace Avenue. He did have rather a spooky grimace of a resting face. It was enough to make little kids run and cry.

Don, a mid-century kid, was raised in an environment of transformers and oscillators. Electricity was not to be feared. It was a tool for inventive creations. Don reasoned that if he could pump an adequate amount of voltage through the thin wires on a balsa-wood frame, it would force enough ions to flow off the needle points to lift the structure. Thus he would invent an ionically-propelled aircraft.

After torching a few balsa-wood aircraft and nearly frying himself when he crossed

the wrong wires, Don woke up across the room on the basement floor. By testy trials and many errors, he eventually succeeded in generating a little airflow. Unfortunately, it was not enough for lift-off. However, the boy scientist did get his efforts published in the Gold and Blue, our high school paper. Much to Don's chagrin, the reporter miss-spelled ionic. With the addition of the letter "R," it appeared "Don Carter Invented A Ironically-Propelled Aircraft."

Jump back a few years to 1957. I delivered some shocking news of my own to my fifth-grade classmates at East Union Elementary. Like Don's father, my dad also had a workshop. While Don's dad fixed TVs, my dad was into salvage

Pappy dismantled all sorts of gismo and gadgets to salvage the parts and copper wire. One sunny afternoon dad returned home from an auction with a pick-up bed full of old-fashioned crank telephones. Eureka! I discovered the reason for the crank. It was to generate enough electricity to ring the operator. When dad started dismantling the phones, I latched onto one of the small crank generators.

The very next Show-N-Tell at East Union my classmates made a shocking discovery. If they held onto both the 9-penny nails I had attached by wires to a little wooden box, they could experience a Thomas Edison moment. No light bulbs appeared above their heads. But the sparks did fly when I cranked the daylights out of the generator.

Not sure, if our teacher, Mrs. Burns, seized the moment for education or was sadistically enjoying the startled surprises of all the munchkins, but she allowed me to keep cranking through recess.

Invention, Who Is Your Momma?

They say, "Necessity is the mother of invention!"

I say, "It is a toss-up." Curiosity, creativity, aspiration, and anticipation all spark and multiply new concepts. Adaptation also plays a role in birthing brilliant solutions. Most inventions stand on the shoulder of previous discoveries. Nothing is new under the sun.

While working my way through college in 1969, my job was in downtown Minneapolis. Parking was at a premium. So the city decided to replace the antiquated nickel-and-dime parking meters with more modern quarter meters. When my shift ended, I pushed through the revolving doors at the First National Bank onto Second Avenue. Whoa! There it was, a pyramid bone

## Story & Graphics by Chuck Clore

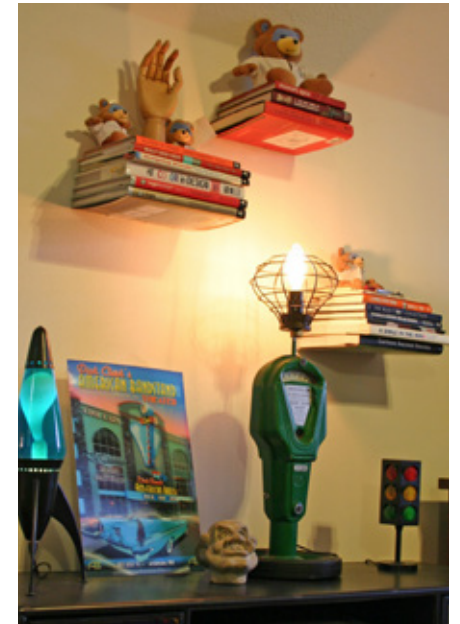


Photo courtesy of Chuck Clore

pile of old parking meters. Then I spied the city crew.

"Hey, buddy, can I buy a couple of those?" I ask the burly fellow wearing a supervisor vest.

"Nope! It is against the city rules for us to sell them. But I tell you what, we are about to go on break in a few minutes. I have kind of lost count. There are so many of them. I don't think we would miss a few."

Over the next few weeks, Roy, the building engineer, and I spent our lunch hours playing with wires and mercury switches until we had a couple of parking meter lamps. Feed the meter a nickel. It got you twenty minutes of light. Add a dime. Illumination lasted an hour. Roll over, Tesla! Look out, Thomas E! We were self-proclaimed electrical geniuses for twenty minutes. I don't know how necessary our invention was, but it was enlightening every time we pumped a nickel in the slot.

Story by Chuck Clore. These photos are taken in my design studio. The parking meter lamp works five decades after Roy and I put it together.



Photo courtesy of Chuck Clore



# Inventors *Poetry and Puzzles*

*Montgomery Memories*

## Look To The Stars

By Joy Willett

*Icarus  
flew too close  
to the sun.  
A myth that inspired  
those to come  
who dreamed of  
what lay beyond.*

*Senor Firmas  
wanted to fly  
so in 875  
he donned feathers  
and flapped  
but didn't quite  
reach the sky.*

*Leonardo DeVinci  
sketched a  
flying machine,  
a helicopter,*

1

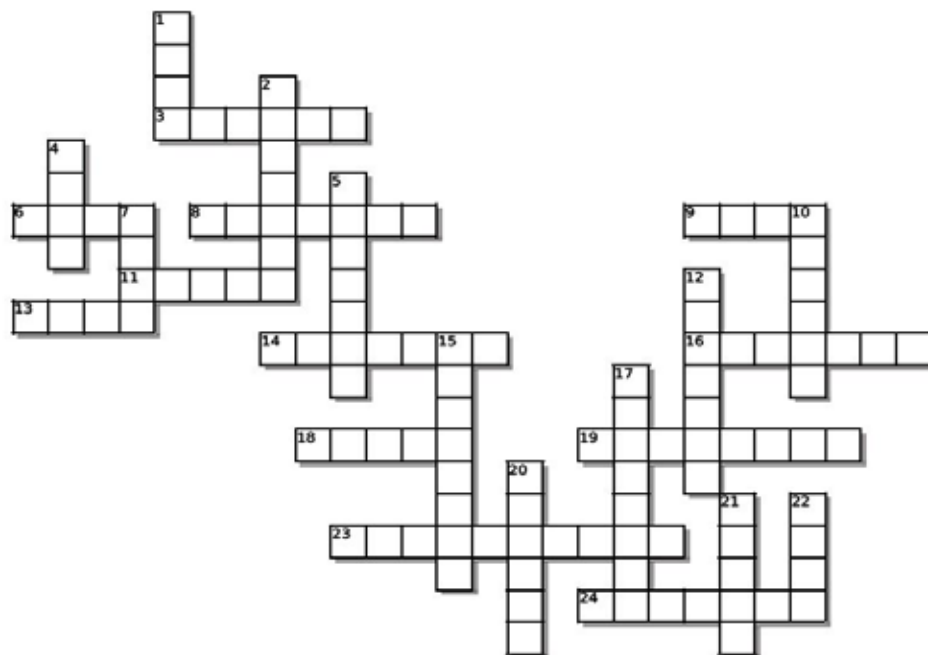
*and a glider  
equipped with  
bat shaped wings.*

*Lagâri Hasan Çelebi,  
a scientist  
from Turkey,  
launched a  
gun powder  
powered rocket  
that landed in the sea.*

*Orville and Wilbur  
not only  
worked on bikes.  
They invented  
the airplane  
and took it on  
its first flight.*

*Trips to the Moon  
and to Mars,  
the satellites  
orbiting afar,  
made possible  
by those who  
looked to the stars.*

2



ACROSS

- 3 Arrives on March 21
- 6 Invented early metal detector
- 8 On 3/12 our clocks spring ---
- 9 Come in like a lion/go out like a ---
- 11 Invented a corn planter
- 13 B. Miller invented a --- machine
- 14 --- Flu
- 16 Inventor of a self-winding clock
- 18 1st drawn in WWI county draft
- 19 Webster invented a --- robe
- 23 1895 precursor to keyboard
- 24 B'ball in March is ---

DOWN

- 1 15th of March
- 2 Bonds supporting WWI effort
- 4 Created a revolving photo album
- 5 Invented nut for RR fish joints
- 7 Built Ferris wheel in Chicago
- 10 Darlington inventor, George ---
- 12 Dentist who died in 1907
- 15 Invented a braille typewriter
- 17 Cheese in "Best Dope Ever"
- 20 Invented lighted advertising clock
- 21 French born inventor --- LePage
- 22 1918 Nat. Republican Chairman

Check out page 10 for the solution

# Burkhart Funeral Home

Charles, Carl & Craig Burkhart

201 W. Wabash Ave., Crawfordsville

765-362-5510

www.BurkhartFH.com





## *Karen's Kitchen*

*Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories*

I love to create recipes and more so to tweak 'em, yet my favorite recipe that was literally created comes from one of Jim's cousins who had to totally start from nothing and make a new recipe for 4-H. It was originally called "Best Dope Ever" long before the nowadays meaning of that middle word! (We just call it the Great Casserole). I make this in two casserole dishes and freeze one for a week or so later or take it to a pitch-in as there's plenty as original – 9 x 13 pan works well for a family meal or the pitch-in or two small casseroles if freezing.

### **The Great Casserole**

Brown in skillet: 1 ½ pounds Ground Beef – 2 small onions – 1 small green pepper.

Cook 1 pkg. medium noodles in salted water.

When done, drain.

Add 1 can Mushrooms, stems & pieces, salt & pepper to taste.

Mix all well.

Place in casserole(s) and cover with 2 cans of mushroom soup.

Put slices of Velveeta cheese on top.

Cover and bake ½ hour at 350.

Uncover the last 15 minutes to brown.

This is really delicious and different and sure thank Jim's cousins for their inventive creation!!!



**We all have rich, interesting family histories!**

*Why not get yours published in an issue of Montgomery Memories?*

**Email: [karen.zach@sbcglobal.net](mailto:karen.zach@sbcglobal.net) Subject: Montgomery Memories**





## County Connections: Luther Rice

*Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories*

Granted, the Ferris Wheel was not invented by this Montgomery Countian, but, it probably wouldn't have ever been enjoyed without him. Luther V. Rice was born near Ladoga on Nov 21, 1861 (Your Rice Family Ezine Feb 29, 2008) on the Gill homestead (Scott Twp) to Jasper and Sarah Margaret (Gill) Rice (Lewis, Russell – From a Wheel with a View – Chicago History Museum). Luther grew-up on the family farm, but sadly lost his father as a young man. Luther had a half sister, Catherine whose mother, Catherine Van Treese died shortly after the daughter's birth. Catherine wed Joe Reeves in MoCo and they went west to Panther, Iowa where Catherine passed at age 33. Jasper married Sarah Gill and these two had two children, our Luther and his sister Lovila who married Jesse V. Batman who parented Goldie, Ward, Elsie and Gladys. Jasper and Sarah have a beautiful stone in Roachdale.



Luther grew up on the farm where he was born, went to Ladoga Normal where he graduated in 1885. It was Cornell next and at the end of that education, he became a Civil Engineer, doing work in Chicago, Cincinnati and St. Louis (Greencastle Herald 21 Nov 1927). On one project, building the Central Bridge (Cincinnati-Newport) which spanned the Ohio, he worked with a man just his age, George Washington Gale Ferris and they were impressed with each other's knowledge, enthusiasm and hard work. Sure you've connected that Ferris name to who actually invented the Ferris Wheel the idea coming to him after a meeting where it was noted that the Civil Engineers had not come up with an original good idea since - for ever. Ferris mulled over that statement which he thought was likely true and began drawing up his "wheel" of fortune.

When Ferris completed his plans, he wrote to Luther Rice telling him he had "a great project for the World's Fair in Chicago." Ferris lived in Pittsburg, PA and headed the GWG Ferris Company of Civil Engineers and didn't want to give that up so he needed someone he could trust with the monumental task of erecting his idea in Chicago. In the letter, he asked Luther to please state the salary he expected. Don't know what Luther suggested or what he received but the letter was written on the 12th of December and Luther was in Chicago ready to go by the end of the year.

Problem. Ferris wanted it erected before the May 1st opening but that didn't happen mainly due to horrific weather during that winter in the windy city. Every day Mrs. Ferris who had non-fail confidence in her husband and his plan would go to the site and encourage the workers, even tromping through mud, snow and rain. The men loved her and figured if she could be out there, so could they.

Thus, just a few weeks after the opening (mid-June) the wheel was ready for debut and it made one huge hit! The Ferris' and Luther invited many dignitaries who loved it and spread the word of its amazement. Now, you and I can picture a Ferris Wheel – we've all been on a few but the Ferris Wheel we know

looks nothing like the one our Ladogian, Luther V. Rice built. The wheel itself was about 800' in circumference and was propelled by two, 1,000 horse-power engines. (Lewis). The C'ville Journal 8 July 1893 featured an amazing letter from Julia Waugh who had just been on a ride, thanking with great heart Mr. Rice who showed them a wonderful time. Some of the important items were "In the center is an enormous axle 45' long and 32" in diameter the largest piece of steel ever forged (Bethlehem Iron Works)." It cost \$35,000 (another source had quite a difference of \$300,000 and add another \$75,000 to the latter in another source). It rested on two skeleton iron towers each resting on a cube 20'x20' of solid concrete beneath the earth. Well, to me none of that was a lot different than I'd have thought but the cars, oh my, the cars!

Each of the six cars were in semblance of a street car and massively built of wood and iron to the tally of 27' in length and 13' wide. Each had six plate glass windows and two doors. Iron bars protected the windows to prevent anyone insane from thinking to jump. All six cars could be filled at the same time due to staggered platforms. Each car could hold 60 people but for safety sake they usually only put 40 in them. The ride cost 50 cents (1,000 tickets sold in less than two hours on both the 1st and 2nd day of the fair) and one full round was enjoyed then a round stopping to let out individuals. Julia said, "There is no swaying or swinging motions – no one would ever get dizzy." Swivel chairs made life easy on the cars. "My memorable trip was taken the second day after the opening and the Ferris Wheel stands today a monument second to no other feat of engineering skills." She also went on to say that the letter was unsolicited and she just wanted to share with the county folks the best and enjoyable experience anyone could have – "the event of a lifetime!" During the fair, a souvenir booklet was given to each person who rode and in the 1950s an original book sold for \$20. Probably 10 times that today? The ride made \$726,805.50 at the Chicago fair (Lewis).

After the fair the wheel remained there until it was announced that it would be blown up if no one wanted it. Oh my the offers flew in (Rockefeller, Leither, junk dealers, iron companies, amusement parks)...and it went on to (under Luther's guidance) the St. Louis World's Fair making just as big of a hit. Luther remained with the amazing wheel for ten years and then went to Chicago where he worked for many years with the Hunt & Co. Engineers.

His expertise actually blossomed in the mining business. The Perry Oregon Republican 20 Dec 1917 called LVR "America's greatest mining engineer." On his okay, stocks would sell very quickly. In Wisconsin two years prior he was president of the Galena Refining Company and he and his partner made many admirers as this had a new process of electric separation of zinc. Many more pluses for our Ladoga hero made him a well-loved man. Speaking of love, he married Jane Neal from Lebanon. They were married but about 18 years before his death in California where he had gone for his health (dying two days before his 66th birthday – she lived for almost 40 more years). They had no children but are buried in style appropriate to his profession in the Oak Hill Cemetery, Lebanon. (thanks to John Doty for the FAGrave picture). Rest In Peace, LVR, rest in peace!

# In Mo Co, it was a very good year in 1918

February 14 – Will H. Hays elected chairman of the National Republican Party. Brazil Daily Times.

Oct 1 – Oscar Lane Irwin was #1 – the first drawn in our county for draft.

February 28 – 150 candidates initiated into the combined courts of the Ben Hur Lodge. Evansville Press.

May 15 – Charles Butler chosen as Republican Chairman of Indiana's Ninth Congressional District.

June 19 – H. Beecher Troutman, Crawfordsville, elected State Commander of the United Spanish War Veterans. The Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette.

August 17 – Indiana Governor offered \$50,000 to Wabash College if the institution could raise \$500,000 for its endowment.

November 11 – World War I ends. Some from Montgomery County who fought were Ernest Warbritton (died from pneumonia), Byron Manson (gassed), John Elliott (drowned), Warren Davis (wounded). Corp. Byron Clark Post, graduate of State Normal was a teacher, enlisted April 17, 1917 and killed at the Battle of Soissons, I believe Mo Co's first lost in battle. 40 men were KIA or passed by disease and other reasons from Montgomery County.

February 16 – Crawfordsville citizens protested in support of a sub depot for the manufacturing of shirts for the war effort. The Indianapolis News.

October 21 – Dr. W. R. Kirtley, a dentist in Crawfordsville since 1907, died from pneumonia at 54 years old.

October 29 – Montgomery County one of the first in the state to be struck by the Spanish Flu experienced decreasing rates of the disease. Crawfordsville Review.

There were 58 active duty soldiers from Brown Township alone beginning in January 1918 in both the Army and Navy.

Nov 8 (Darlington Herald) – a list of those not purchasing their quota of Liberty Bonds – the list was in alphabetical order presenting 17 names, 3 from Walnut; 2 from Clark; 1 from Scott; 4 from Sugar Creek; 3 from Franklin 1 from Madison; 2 from Wayne; 1 from Coal Creek. Rest of the article, sadly bombarded one of that list!





## Grandcestors

*Karen Bazzani Zach, Montgomery Memories*

Okay, right up front here, you need to know that I am writing this article in complete desperation. With all our thousands of ancestors, I could find nary a one who was an inventor. Don't ever really remember having writer's block – something always comes to me fairly quickly but have spent weeks thinkin' on this article. What in the world can ya' do with no inventor to be seen? A few other times I had no one for the topic of the month, so I'd just adopt a family who had three or four of that in the family (doctors for instance) but could only find individuals so there went that idea. Oddly, many of my ideas (for anything I do) come in dreams or when I should be sleeping and can't thus I wasn't too worried, but again, nothing.

So, being an English teacher, I thought, okay, listen up, Zach, check and see just what an inventor is. Basically, it was what I thought but broader thoughts came my way - originate, create, innovate, design – smacked me in the face. This was exactly what I did over and over again at Turkey Run, almost each semester creating a new 7th-8th grade class for rotation or high school classes not of the norm. I was the librarian and extra English teacher so mainly I just taught freshman English until the board decided to have just one librarian and they told me and the grade school one to decide who was going to teach only and the other do both libraries. Sarabeth didn't want to teach; I did so full-time for the rest of my years, except then I had too much time on my hands so they asked if I'd create a high school class or two and it just kept on going. Create remember and originate are two definitions (synonyms) for invent and boy did I have to originate and create but I loved it. So, here are Some of my “inventions.” Altogether there were 23 classes – their criteria – “no money and no supplies” – just create and teach and that I did!

Was trying to think of the first ones and I know Parke County history was early on. It was so much fun, beginning with a list of about 30 or so “towns” of Parke County only the students had to decide which were and which were not. We played a game quite often with them and later the test was much improved. The Library aide was a bus driver and was one of the Covered Bridge Fest tour guides so she took us to a couple of the bridges close – kids loved that and we went to a cemetery and did stone rubbings. They also wrote a children's book we shared with the 2nd graders on a Parke topic.

Speaking of children's books, another one was Children's Literature. As far as I know it was the first one in the state. They had a Caldecott book committee where they had to choose a couple of Caldecotts and runner-ups with full criteria covered. They wrote books and shared with the grade schoolers as well – just lots of fun things and the final test was to create (they too were inventing) a story hour. One of those got us in some odd trouble. The group decided to do a Halloween theme only the stuff they used to create a smoky atmosphere started the fire alarm. We had loud music going on and didn't even know they had gone out for a fire drill. When they came in the principal stuck his head in and told me to please come by his office after class. Oh the kids (me, too) were so sure I was in major trouble but it turned out that he had



forgotten to have one that semester and thus we saved him!

Creative Writing was probably my favorite class that I taught and was always wonderful to see the kids come up with an idea, develop it, improve it and present it to the class. We also had several writing contests during class and one semester I had about the same amount of boys as girls and talk about competition but the boys all thanked 'em in the end as they pushed them to succeed. One of the boys told me in college he never once even blinked at anything he was assigned to write because of that class. Great fun! I have about ten who professionally write that I taught so it thrills me to have had at least a bit of influence on those outcomes.

Their favorite class was likely Film Lit. We had so much fun and they enjoyed two days of watching a movie and a day or two to come up with their projects and then the presentations of those. I remember when Avatar came out and they wanted to watch it. I said it didn't sound good to me and I didn't want to spend hours figuring out projects and essays – they said each of them would come up with one idea and one of 'em had purchased it so we even had one to watch. They had such amazing ideas AND I loved it – one of my favorite all-time movies but next to Princess Bride and August Rush.

Probably the most creative presentation from all the classes was in Indiana Lit. One assignment was to read a chapter of my Crawfordsville book and do a lesson – three gals were Lincoln, Lane & Lew, (see my photo of them) up in Heaven discussing all the things that they had accomplished – it was amazing !!!

So, you now know about just a few of the “invented” classes and I loved every one!

***Why not help preserve history by contributing to Montgomery Memories?***

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